are facing severe water scarcity due to prevailing drought situation in the State;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to provide required water for the people in the cities of the State;

(c) whether any Central assistance has been provided in that direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has informed that urban areas of Karnataka are facing scarcity of drinking water due to prevailing drought situation. Karnataka Water Supply and Drainage Board has informed that they have undertaken works such as extension of pipelines, repairs to hand pumps, power pumps, deepening of existing borewells, supply of water through tanks and drilling of new borewells to overcome the scarcity of drinking water in the urban areas of the State. An expenditure of Rs. 9.04 crores has been incurred by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board in this regard.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture, dealing with coordination of management of drought in the country have released the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 61.66 crores and Rs. 207.65 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for 2002-03 to the Government of Karnataka.

Change in use of shops

863. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have decided a new policy for allowing change of use of shops from 'Restricted' to 'General';

(b) if so, whether this policy would apply to even those cases which were pending on the date of new policy and in which demand letters as per old policy had been issued;

(c) whether demand letters as per new policy have been issued to all the applicants whose applications were pending on date;

(d) the reasons for delay in issuing demand letters; and

(e) by when demand letters would be issued as per the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new policy would apply in pending cases wherever the allottee has not carried out the conservation as on the date of issue of the policy.

(c) Yes, Sir. Wherever applicable.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Poverty Alleviation Schemes

864. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by Government to remove poverty among the urban population;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose to each State during the last three years;

(c) whether those schemes have yielded results so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has been implementing through the State Governments/ Union Territories, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997, with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through firstly encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by those, who have studied upto 9th standard and secondly,